

Definition of Terms

American Phytopathological Society

An international scientific organization that promotes the study of plant diseases and their control through publications, meetings, symposia, workshops, and the World Wide Web. Its members include educators, extension personnel, consultants, students, researchers, and scientists from agricultural departments, health agencies, private industries, colleges and universities, and state and federal governments.

angiosperms

Flowering plants; plants with seeds enclosed within a developing ovary (fruit).

biotype

A taxonomic subcategory subordinate to species.

Crop Protection Compendium (CPC)

An interactive, encyclopedic tool that draws together information on all aspects of crop protection. The CPC is comprised of information sourced from experts, edited and compiled by an independent scientific organization, and resourced by a diverse international Development Consortium. It is published on CD-ROM and the Internet and is updated annually.

Entomological Society of America

The largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and colleagues in related disciplines. Its members include educators, extension personnel, consultants, students, researchers, and scientists from agricultural departments, health agencies, private industries, colleges and universities, and state and federal governments.

genus

An important rank in the taxonomic hierarchy, subordinate to family, but above the rank of species. It is a group of obviously homogeneous species

gymnosperms

Seed bearing plants; differ from angiosperms in having naked seeds not enclosed in an ovary. Examples are pine, cypress, cycad, and ginkgo.

host range

The group of plants on which a plant pest can survive and complete its life cycle.

invasive species

For the purposes of this discussion, includes species that are non-native or alien to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction is likely to cause agricultural or environmental harm.

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The International Plant Protection Convention is an international treaty relating to plant health, to which 138 governments, including the U.S.A., (as of 25 April 2005) currently adhere. The Convention has been deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since its initial adoption by the Conference of FAO at its Sixth Session in 1951.

mitigation measure

For the purposes of this discussion, **includes** any method designed to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, including (but not limited to) the performance of inspections, tests, surveillance and treatments.

monotypic genus

A genus having only one species.

NAPPO

The North American Plant Protection Organization is the Regional Plant Protection Organization of the International Plant Protection Convention that coordinates the efforts among Canada, the United States and Mexico to protect their plant resources from the entry, establishment and spread of regulated plant pests, while facilitating intra/interregional trade.

nonvascular plants

Plants lacking tissue to conduct water and nutrients. They do not produce flowers or seeds.

official control

The active enforcement of mandatory phytosanitary regulations and the application of mandatory phytosanitary procedures with the objective of eradication or containment of quarantine pests or for the management of regulated non-quarantine pests.

Offshore Pest Information System (OPIS)

A structured, web-based process for collecting, analyzing, communicating and using information relative to offshore pest information, and is managed and maintained by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The OPIS target pest list is to be used to focus our pest surveillance efforts offshore towards pests that are exotic to the U.S. and that PPQ considers the greatest threats to American agriculture and natural resources.

pathway

Any means that allows the entry and spread of a pest

pest

Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products

pest risk analysis (PRA)

The process of evaluating biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether a pest should be regulated and the strength of any phytosanitary measures to be taken against it.

pest risk assessment

Evaluation of the probability of introduction and spread of a pest or pests and the associated potential economic consequences.

PIN 309

The Port Information Network database, which captures data on pest interceptions made during inspections at U.S. ports of entry, managed and maintained by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

phytosanitary

Plant health.

phytosanitary certificate

A certificate patterned after the IPPC model.

phytosanitary certification

Use of phytosanitary procedures leading to the issuance of a phytosanitary certificate.

phytosanitary procedure

Any officially prescribed method for implementing phytosanitary regulations including the performance of inspections, tests, surveillance, or treatments in connection with regulated pests.

phytosanitary regulation

Official rule to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests, or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests, including establishment of procedures for phytosanitary certification.

plants for planting

Living plants and parts thereof, including seed and germplasm (plants intended for use in breeding or conservation programs) intended to remain planted, to be planted or replanted, including any operation for the placing of plants in a growing medium (Any material in which plant roots are growing or intended for that purpose) or by grafting or similar operations, to ensure their subsequent growth, reproduction and propagation.

quarantine pest

A pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.

regulated non-quarantine pests

A non-quarantine pest whose presence in plants for planting affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact and which is therefore regulated within the territory of the importing contracting party. (The criteria do not address this category of pest, which is under discussion by the international community. As this concept develops, APHIS will determine when and how to adjust the provisions of Q-37.)

risk evaluation

For the purposes of this discussion, includes the process of gathering and assessing evidence to determine whether a pest should be delisted from the "Not Authorized Pending Risk Evaluation" category.

species

The taxonomic rank subordinate to genus; the fundamental unit of study in taxonomy, comprising all the populations of a breeding group that share constant and distinctive characters.

taxon (pl. taxa)

A named taxonomic group of any rank, e.g. family, genus, species. The term was coined to replace clumsy phrases such as taxonomic entity or taxonomic unit.

taxonomic

Relating to the classification of plants and animals into categories according to their natural relationships.

Technical Committee to Evaluate Noxious Weeds (TCENW)

After Congress passed the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, APHIS established the TCENW to recommend species for listing as noxious weeds. The committee was composed of representatives from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). They recommended species for listing that were serious weeds in other countries and either absent from the United States or of limited distribution. APHIS listed the most serious 76 of these taxa as noxious weeds. The TCENW was disbanded in 1981 after developing a list of an additional 770 serious weeds of exotic origin not found or not widely prevalent in the United States.

vascular plant

A plant containing tissue that conducts water and nutrients throughout the plant.

Weed Science Society of America (WSSA)

Organization that promotes research, education, and extension outreach activities related to weeds; provides science-based information to the public and policy makers; and fosters awareness of weeds and their impacts on managed and natural ecosystem.

Weed Science Society of America's list of potential weed threats

In 2000, APHIS signed a cooperative agreement with the WSSA to develop a model to rank weeds not known to occur in the U.S. and that pose a threat to agricultural and environmental ecosystems. The model ranks 723 weeds using a scoring process based on history of weediness elsewhere, geographic range potential in the US, damage potential and entry potential.